

POLS 306 Section 508
Islam and Politics
Dr. Sena Karasipahi
Fall 2007

Class: MWF 12:05 PM - 12:55 PM
Classroom: ALLN 1005
Office: 2122 Allen Building
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to understand the patterns and interaction between Islamic movements and politics in various Middle Eastern countries to develop an understanding of the role of Islam as a tool for political and social mobilisation. It will examine the politicization of Islam and its impact on movements and countries such as Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia and Pakistan. The main topics consist of the interaction of religion, politics and society; the evolution of Islamist philosophy and movements from the late nineteenth century until the present day; nationalism and anticolonialism; and the contemporary Islamic resurgence movements in the Middle East.

EXPECTATIONS

The students are expected to read all of the assigned material in order to have a necessary understanding of the subject matter. Lecture material and reading assignments are complementary and should not be considered substitutes for each other. Participation in class discussions are also encouraged as they are likely to contribute to the overall understanding of the subject by students.

ATTENDANCE

Class participation will be essential in this course. Therefore, class attendance is a must. Missing more than three classes will automatically affect your participation grade simply because you will not be able to participate!

GRADING

Participation in Class: 10%
Pop quiz: (2) 20%
Oral Presentation: 30
Final Research Paper: 40%

Grade Scale

A	90-100	
B	80-89	
C	70-79	
D	60-69	
F	0-59	

There will be 2 pop quizzes. They are unannounced 10 minutes exams administered during the regular class meeting. A pop quiz consists of problems derived from your assigned readings.

Each student will give a 15 minutes **presentation** on one of the topics of the course based on the readings in one of the class sessions.

Final research paper should be 10 to 15 pages and the topics must be approved in advance. You are expected to write an analytical essay on an Islamic movement or a specific country-case study. (due by Dec.7, Friday)

The paper should persuasively support and elaborate on the argument stated in your thesis section. As such, while you could present arguments that contradict your line of thought, you do not necessarily have to do so. Yet, if you decide to present arguments that oppose your claim, you need to show convincingly how your argumentation accommodates or refutes them. While doing so may constitute an extra work for you, it may also improve the overall quality of your argument. In both instances, please keep in mind that this is a paper written for a political science not a history course. Therefore, you will need to use historical phenomena to support your arguments. Mere narration of events without showing any connection to your main thesis will not earn you much credit

Format for the Final Research Paper:

- The research project must have an introduction, a thesis statement, a body, and a conclusion. The research project should have a clear organizational structure including transitions between the sections.
- Introduction: In this part you need to get reader's attention. First, state the question that you are answering. Then, explain why it is an important question. You may include any practical (and theoretical) advances that answering this question will bring. If you think that the question you are answering is ambiguous, please make sure to interpret the problem in the way you understand it. If the question you are tackling is too broad, narrow it down.
- Thesis statement: In this section clearly state your argument. Although you do not have to explain the logic of your thesis in this section, be sure to define any major concepts that you are using in your argumentation. Do not use definitions from dictionary

or web. If the authors from the reviewed studies provide a definition of the main terms, you may use these.

- **The body section:** In this section you will need to show the logic of the argument. In other words, explain why we should expect a relationship between the factors that you think are important and the phenomenon/phenomena that need/s to be explained. In this section try to make the big points that relate to the question that you are answering. After you write a paragraph try to re-read it to make sure that it is clear how this paragraph relates to the question under consideration.

While writing this section you will need to elaborate on the previous literature that has dealt with this problem as well. The purpose of this exercise is to see what we know about the answers to your question based on other people's research and how your paper "fits" into it. In writing this section you should avoid presenting mere paragraphs that describe one by one previous studies. Rather, your task here is to analyze previous studies and explain how they are similar and different. If there is more than one explanation to the phenomena that they study, try to explain why there might be two or more explanations. This means that you need to assess previous knowledge and present your own judgment about its relevance to the question.

In this section try to demonstrate how your answer "fits" the previous knowledge. If there is a disagreement among scholars on a particular issue, does your study solve this disagreement? Does it take any particular side? If so, then why? If there is a complete agreement among scholars on a particular issue, does your argument agree with them or does it bring a new revolutionary explanation that overturns the conventional wisdom? Or maybe the problem has not yet received much attention and you are a pioneer in explaining the phenomenon (phenomena) of your interest. In either case, demonstrate how your argument is superior to other explanations, if any of them exist.

- **Conclusion:** In this section, briefly re-state the issue that you investigate and its importance. Re-emphasize your own answer to this question and its place in the previous research. Indicate any potential areas for the future research in light of the statements you make.

- The paper should be in a double-spaced and single sided format.
- The paper should be typed in a 12-point font.
- The body of the text on a page should be framed by 1-inch margins.
- Your paper does not need to be bound—just stapling or clipping is fine.
- Please number the pages on the paper.
- Your paper must have a bibliography in a format shown below.
- While the Internet could be used as a source of information, you must employ at least five academic sources, meaning academic books and articles. Some academic sources are available in the "full-text" electronic format. You could access them via the University server. Readings assigned in the class could also be used.
- Whenever you use information from another source, in other words, when you paraphrase or quote directly, you must give a credit to the author by properly citing him/her. Not doing so constitutes an act of plagiarism. Plagiarism will result not only in a significantly reduced grade in the course but also in disciplinary action, according to University rules as explained below.
- The format of citations is given below.

a. Citations

Please cite your papers thoroughly and use the specified format. Failure to do this will result in a significant grade penalty. The citation requirements for this class are as follows.

a1. *Direct Quotes*

You must enclose direct quotes—text taken word for word from another source—in quotation marks. Right after the quote, in the parentheses put the author's last name, the year of publication

and page numbers. Within the parenthesis, the author's last name and the year of publication should be separated by a comma. Use a colon to separate the year of publication and page number. Books as well as newspaper and journal articles have the same format. The appropriate punctuation for the sentence should follow the parentheses.

Example: "The transition in East-Central Europe from the centrally planned economy to the market economy turned out to be a very complex process" (Hegedüs, 1999: 132).

a2. *Indirect Quotes (Paraphrasing)*

Whenever you employ somebody else's ideas and put them in your own words, you have to give a proper credit to the original author. At the end of the sentence provide the author's last name as well as the year when the study was published. Alternatively, the name of the author could be integrated into your writing.

Below is a direct quote from Higley and Lengyel:

"The basic difference between the institutional changes that occurred before and after state socialism's demise was that the former were intended to reproduce state socialism while the latter were meant to transcend it" (Higley and Lengyel, 2000: 8).

If in your writing you express this idea in your own words, you still need to give credit to the authors.

The fundamental novelty of institutional reforms in the post-communist period is that they aim to go beyond the socialist system, rather than replicate it (Higley and Lengyel, 2000).

Alternatively:

Higley and Lengyel (2000) point out that institutional reforms implemented in the post-communist age are designed to surpass state socialism rather than replicate it.

Whenever in writing an entire paragraph or idea you are employing a single source, show it at the beginning of the paragraph:

Higley and Lengyel (2000) consider a fundamental change in the way institutional reforms work in Central and Eastern Europe with the demise of state socialism.

Particularly, focusing on the role of elites they point to...

If the ideas on which you rely are general to the entire article/source, you do not need to list a page number.

a3. *String Citing*

String citing is stringing together a lot of direct quotes and connecting them by your own words. It is not acceptable. Use direct quotes only when they are especially relevant to the author's idea. It is not appropriate to quote information that relates to pure facts rather than ideas. Doing so suggests that you do not have a clear understanding of the material. As a general rule, direct quotes should be one or two sentences in length.

String citing makes it impossible to assess and grade the work. Simply, it does not contain much of student's own work.

b. Bibliography

To the end of your exam attach a list of all references used for writing your exam. The list should be in alphabetical order. The format should be as follows:

Books

Higley, John, and György Lengyel. 2000. *Elites after State Socialism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Roskin, Michael G. 2002. *The Rebirth of East Europe*. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Regulska, Joanna. 1993. "Self-Governance or Central Control? Rewriting Constitutions in Central and Eastern Europe." In *Constitution Making in Eastern Europe*, ed. A. E.

Dick Howard: The Woodrow Wilson Center Press/The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Articles in Journals and Magazines

Roeder, Philip. G. 1999. "Peoples and States after 1989: The Political Costs of Incomplete National Revolutions." *Slavic Review* 58(4): 854-82.

****Dec. 7, Friday Final Research Paper due date!**

Late submissions of the final paper **will not be accepted.**

Required Books

1. John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, Syracuse University Press, Fourth Edition,
2. 1998.
3. Joel Beinin & Joe Stork, *Political Islam*, University of California Press, 1997.

The books are available at the University bookstore. The books may also be available at the online bookstores, such as <http://www.addall.com>, <http://www.amazon.com>, <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>, <http://www.half.com>, and <http://www.campusi.com>. If you choose to order your textbook via an online provider, please be mindful of the delivery time as several weeks may pass before you would receive the copy of the book.

A copy of each book together with other reading materials is placed on the reserve at the Policy Sciences and Economics Library (PSEL).

Useful References and Resources

You can consult the continuing bibliographies in *The Middle East Journal* and *Foreign Affairs*. For substantive articles see these journals and also *Middle East Report* (formerly *MERIP Reports*), *Foreign Policy*, *World Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Security*, *The International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Middle East Economic Digest*, *Middle East Journal*, *The Washington Report on Near East Affairs*, *The Journal of Palestine Studies*, *The Iranian Journal of International Affairs*, *Middle East Quarterly*, *The Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*, *The Journal of Arab Affairs*, and *Arab Studies Quarterly*.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Statement

"The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Services, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), in Room 126 of the Koldus Building, or call 845-1637." (<http://scs.tamu.edu/overview/access.asp>)

Plagiarism Statement

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of the passing off as one's own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarism destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty". As for now, these rules are also available at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule20.htm>

The Aggie Honor System

In Fall semester of 2004 Texas A&M University has initiated the Aggie Honor System Office. The mission of this Office is based on the Aggie motto:

An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do.

The system states clear definitions of academic misconduct as well as the procedures to handle any indications of academic misbehavior, which directly relates to your academic work. You may find the relevant information at the Honor System's website—<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>.

Tentative Lecture Plan and Readings

*This may change. Any changes will be announced in class as well as via neo account.

Week 1: An Overview of Islam

- a) Introduction to the class. Clarification of the course, including reading material, expectations, requirements.
- b) General Characteristics of the Islamic Faith; John Esposito, "*Ten Things Everyone Needs to Know about Islam.*"
http://arabworld.nitle.org/texts.php?module_id=2&reading_id=62&sequence=1
- c) Video: Empire of Faith

Week 2: Islam, Religion, Politics, Society

- a) Mir Zohair Husain, *Global Islamic Politics*, Second Edition, Longman Publishers, 2003, ch.1, pp. 1-36.
- b) John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, Syracuse University Press, Fourth Edition, 1998, ch.1, pp.3-32.

- c) Joel Beinin & Joe Stork, *Political Islam*, University of California Press, 1997, Introduction, pp. 3-22.

Week 3: What is Muslim Politics?

- a) Dale Eickelman & James Piscatori, *Muslim Politics*, Princeton University Press, 2004, pp.3-21; and 46-57;
- b) James Piscatori, *Islam in the Political Process*, Cambridge, 1983, Introduction, pp.1-11 and John L. Esposito, *Islam and Democracy*, Oxford University Press, 1996, pp.33-51.
- c) John Voll, *Islam Continuity and Change in the Modern World*, Second Edition, Syracuse Univ. Press, 1994, Perspectives and Prospects: The Islamic Resurgence and Contemporary History, pp. 375-390.

Week 4 : Islamic Responses to the West: Roots of Conflict, Cooperation and Confrontation

- a) John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp.33-61;
- b) William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, ch. 7, pp.119-133
- c) John L. Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* pp. 52-65; Mir Zohair Husain, *Global Islamic Politics*, pp. 108-124.

Week 5: Modern Islamic Neorevivalist Movements

- a) John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp. 62-98.
- b) John Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* pp. 67-105
- c) John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp. 99- 131.

Week 6: Islamic Groups and Politics (Part I)

- a) John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp.136-157.
- b) Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* pp. 128-159.
- b) Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* pp. 161-191

Week 7: Islamic Groups and Politics (Part II)

- a) John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp.158-189.
- b) Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp. 213-227 and Beinin & Stork, pp. 335-354.
- d) Beinin & Stork, pp. 136-143; 355-369.

e) Week 8: Islamic Groups and Politics (Part III)

a) Serif Mardin, Religion and Politics in Turkey, in *Islam in the Political Process*, (ed.) James Piscatori, Cambridge, 1983, pp.138-160.

b) Hakan Yavuz, Opportunity Spaces, Identity, and Islamic Meaning in Turkey, in *Islamic Activism: A Social Movement Theory Approach*, (ed.) Quintan Wiktorowicz, Indiana Univ. Press, 2004, pp. 270-288.

c) Umit Cizre, "Parameters and Strategies of Islam-State Interaction in Republican Turkey," *International Journal of Middle east Studies*, 28: 2 (May, 1996) 231-251. <http://www.jstor.org/journals/00207438.html> and Beinlin & Stork, pp. 144- 153.

Week 9: The Role of Muslim Militias:

a) John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp. 227-260.

b) Quintan Wiktorowicz, *Islamic Activism: A Social Movement Theory Approach*, pp. 112-136 and Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp. 279-287.

c) Video: In the Footsteps of Bin Laden

Week 10: Islamic Radicals in Power and Changing Political Geography of Muslim Politics

a) Peter Woodward, Sudan: Islamic Radicals in Power, in *Political Islam*, (ed.) John Esposito, pp. 95- 114.

b) Muslim Brotherhood and Egypt's Parliamentary Elections
http://www.cfr.org/publication/9319/muslim_brotherhood_and_egypts_parliamentary_elections.html and Beinlin & Stork, pp.83-94; 327-334.

c) Dale Eickelman & James Piscatori, *Muslim Politics*, Princeton University Press, 2004, pp. 136-164.

Week 11: Islamic Threat: Clash of Civilizations?

a) Edward Said, *Orientalism*, Introduction, pp. 1-28.

b) Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations*, Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993

c) Islam, modernity and the West: Clash of Civilization or ignorance? John Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* ch. 6, pp. 212-240.

Week 12: Islam, Secularism, Democracy, Modernity and the West

a) Beinlin & Stork, pp. 29-63.

b) Council on Foreign Relations, "Q&A on Islam and Democracy,"
http://www.cfr.org/publication/7708/middle_east.html; and Islam and Democracy, U.S.

Institute for Peace, Special Report 93. <http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr93.html>;
and John L. Esposito, *Islam and Politics*, pp. 325-338.

c) Nikki R. Keddie, "Secularism & its discontents,"

<http://www.amacad.org/publications/summer2003/keddie.pdf>

and Beinlin & Stork, pp.71-82.

Week 13: Islamic Jihad

a) Roxanne Euben, "Killing (For) Politics: Jihad, Martyrdom, and Political Action,"
Political Theory, 30:1 (Feb 2002), pp. 4-35

b) Robert A. Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review* (2003), 97:343-361.

c) Ahmad Yousef, "Martyrdom Operations: Motivations, Preparation, and Repercussions," *Middle East Affairs Journal*, Winter/Spring 2003, Vol. 9, Nos. 1-2, pp. 143-160; and Charles Kurzman, "Bin Laden and Other Thoroughly Modern Muslims," *Contexts* (American Sociological Association), Vol. 1, No. 4, Fall-Winter 2002, pp. 13-20.

Week 14: Islam: Challenge or Threat?

a) John Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* pp. 257- 289.

b) The Middle East and the changing international order. Did 9/11 change everything?
Roger Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*,
Routledge, 2004, pp. 219-229.

c) Richard N. Haass, *The New Middle East*, Foreign Affairs, November/December 2006.

Week 15: Summary, Review and Concluding Remarks

a) General Discussion of the Themes Covered.

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